

that list. We were told we would be notified when the decision was made so we would have an opportunity to discuss that issue with our side of the aisle and were given no such opportunity.

I feel we are perfectly within our rights to object because of the way this has been handled.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. Surely.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. The gentleman is free to object, but the fact is that the identical list of proposed conferees that was given his staff yesterday has been agreed to.

The Speaker under 40 years of Democratic rule of the House of Representatives had taken it unto himself to have sole prerogative over who the conferees are. That has not changed. I am at a loss to understand how the gentleman has been put out of sorts by the agreement on a list that his staff had yesterday.

I am reminded, to go one step further, that the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] once called a conference, adjourned the House, went back to the Cloakroom, confected the conference, reported out the reports of the conference all within the space of 2 minutes, and the minority was given no opportunity to object. The gentleman has had ample opportunity to give input.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. OBEY was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I would simply note that with all due respect to what may happen on other committees, on our committee there has always been a tradition of due notice and due consultation before any such appointments have been made.

I would also ask the gentleman if he can tell me any time in the past during which the Speaker has threatened to reduce the number of Democratic conferees on an appropriations conference below that of the ratio on the committee.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. The gentleman well knows that this entire conference centers around a national security problem. The gentleman knows that because of the deployment of troops around the world in many forgotten spots of this wide globe of ours that the readiness, maintenance, operations, training hours, and many other importance areas have been depleted within the Pentagon, and we have had to come forward and try to replace those monies so that the Pentagon, the Defense Department of this country, can carry out its mission without running short of money.

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Now, it has been the point of view of the gentleman from Louisiana and the gentleman from Florida, the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee—

Mr. OBEY. Reclaiming my time for just one second to correct something the gentleman said, the fact is the guts of this conference is not solely the provision of the authority that the gentleman is talking about. It is also the intent of the majority party to take domestic accounts to pay for Pentagon bills in a bill which is not even fully paid for and which adds to the deficit.

Until we can get an understanding about not adding to the deficit, I am going to object.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SENBRENNER). The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. It is my understanding, or am I correct in understanding that if the gentleman's objection is heard and we cannot go to conference using the very same names of the conferees that were submitted to his staff yesterday, that we are going to be forced to roll over until Tuesday and not appoint conferees until Tuesday, and that the critical interests of the Defense Department will not be met because the conference will not be had until later than that?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, that is not a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin is correct.

Mr. OBEY. You can go to conference on Tuesday at the same time as you could under your motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin is correct. This is not a proper parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, to rephrase my parliamentary inquiry, the gentleman from Louisiana is under the impression that with the gentleman's objection, we cannot go to conference. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. All right. Then further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker, when might we be able to go to conference on this critical defense issue?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana knows that there are two ways by which a bill can be committed to conference. One is by unanimous consent, and second is by a motion made pursuant to rule XX of the Rules of the House, or by a rule from the Committee on Rules. That is a third way.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. OBEY. Is it not true that the gentleman can easily find himself in conference on Tuesday just as he would have found himself in conference on Tuesday if he makes this motion Tuesday using the right rule?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is not a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. OBEY. It may not be, but it is a fact.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask for this time to inquire of the distinguished majority leader about the schedule for the following week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY].

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the House will not be in session on Monday, March 27.

On Tuesday, March 28, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business to consider five bills under suspension of the rules:

H.R. 849, the Age Discrimination Employment Act Amendments of 1995;

H.R. 529, the Targhee National Forest Land Exchange;

H.R. 606, the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act Amendments;

H.R. 622, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995; and

H.R. 256, the Fort Carson and Pinyon Canyon Land Withdrawal.

If any recorded votes are ordered, they will not take place before 5 p.m. on Tuesday. After we complete action on the five suspensions, we will take up the rule for House Joint Resolution 73, the term limits constitutional amendment.

For Wednesday, March 29, and the balance of the week, the House will complete consideration of House Joint Resolution 73.

Meeting times for the House are 11 a.m. on Wednesday and 10 a.m. on Thursday.

The House will not be in session on Friday, March 31.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, first, it is probably clear, but maybe we need to make it clear, I take it there are no more votes today?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, that is correct.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I thank the gentleman.

Second, I would like to ask regarding the days off next week, can the gentleman advise whether or not he expects votes on Thursday? I assume that he will be meeting on Thursday on some of these matters.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, yes, that is correct. We do expect

votes on Thursday. If everything goes well, we are hopeful we will be able to make a 3 o'clock departure time on Thursday.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Again, the intent is not to have votes on Friday? That is the clear intent?

Mr. ARMEY. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. GEPHARDT. A further question, can the gentleman give any advice to Members on whether other days will be given away prior to the April recess? In particular, I am thinking of Monday, April 3, or Friday, April 7. Does the gentleman have any advice on that at this point?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, at this point I can only tell the gentleman with respect to both of those days I have only high hopes, but no clear enough picture to be able to advise you.

Mr. GEPHARDT. And then, fourth, regarding the rule on the tax bill which is coming in the last week, it is my understanding that the Committee on Rules will meet on the tax bill on Wednesday. I would like to ask if it is true that just one substitute may be made in order; will Members on both sides of the aisle be permitted to offer substitutes for that bill?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, we have made no decisions regarding that. I think that it is true that the committee will meet on that and, I believe, start taking testimony on Wednesday, if that is correct, 10 o'clock in the morning next week.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Ten o'clock on Wednesday. So Members who want to offer substitutes or amendments should be willing to appear on Wednesday morning?

Finally, I would like to ask about the timing on the budget resolution. As the gentleman knows, it is traditional under our rules to have completed a budget resolution by the middle of April. I am told that you intend to start in the first part of May, and I just am wondering when you are thinking of trying to bring a budget to the floor.

Can the distinguished majority leader give me a sense of when we might get to the floor on the budget?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, of course, as the gentleman knows, in many, many instances in the past several years it has been impossible to make that exact deadline, and we certainly intended to move on a budget bill as soon after our reconvening after the April work period as possible. So I would say as early in May as we can get our work done we will be announcing that to the floor.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. SABO], the ranking member of the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. SABO. I am curious as it relates to the tax bill, what other bills will be combined with that? I am thinking particularly of the bill we voted out of the Committee on the Budget and other bills that have come out of En-

ergy and Commerce and other committees, the additional changes in Medicare out of Ways and Means. Are those all going to be combined in one bill?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, I can only tell you that the Committee on Rules will be meeting on Wednesday. They will be taking testimony on Wednesday, and we will begin to see what form that takes as that proceeds.

Mr. SABO. So we do not know yet what the exact form of the legislation of the final week before the recess will be, whether it is one bill or several bills?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, that is correct.

Mr. SABO. If the minority leader will yield further, I would only indicate to the House that in recent years the House has completed its action on budget resolutions well in advance of April 15.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I just have one additional last question. Does the gentleman expect us to go to conference on the line-item veto bill next week?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, as the gentleman knows, conference reports may be brought up at any time. We would certainly want to move as quickly as we can on that, and having the Senate's action only just last night, we will get to it as soon as we can. I cannot make an announcement at this time.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I thank the gentleman.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1995, TO TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1995

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 1995, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Washington [Mrs. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. SMITH of Washington addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HOYER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. JEFFERSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. JEFFERSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BEREUTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. VOLKMER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

MILITARY TRAINING AND READINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, during the last Congress when my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were in the majority, many of us testified that the extension of Somalia was, first of all, going to cost American lives; second, that it was going to cost billions and billions of dollars, and at the same time it was going to eliminate readiness, because the amount of training that our military was able to do during the extension of Somalia in peacekeeping would be diminished.

We also recognized that a policy change from humanitarian to go after General Aideed would be disastrous, and during that time those decisions